

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

JOHN CULBERSON
7TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

May 2, 2002

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1728 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4307
202.225.2571
FAX 202.225.4381

DISTRICT OFFICE:
10000 MEMORIAL DRIVE, SUITE 620
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77024-3490
713.682.8828
FAX: 713.680.8070

INTERNET:
WWW.CULBERSON.HOUSE.GOV

The Honorable Ralph S. Regula
Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education
2358 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515-0001

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you begin consideration of the fiscal year 2003 Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Bill, I write to ask for your support of a vital project at Memorial City Hospital in Houston, Texas.

Memorial City is a 386 bed hospital with a medical staff of more than 900 physicians practicing in over 40 specialties. It is in a part of Houston that is experiencing extraordinarily high population growth, faster than that of the surrounding area. As a result, the hospital frequently operates at capacity and has seen a substantial increase in the number of emergency room visits. In order to keep pace with the trend in population growth, the hospital campus and services must be expanded.

Specifically, the current 16 bed emergency room at Memorial City Hospital was designed to treat 15,000 to 18,000 patients per year. During the past year, approximately 40,000 patients were seen in the emergency room, with this trend expected to continue and grow three to four percent per year, at least through 2006. Wait times in the emergency room and the amount of time that the hospital is put "on diversion" continue to increase due to this population growth.

Memorial City Hospital is engaged in a larger project to expand a hospital tower. As part of this project, Memorial City will be replacing and expanding the existing emergency room. Overall, the expansion will increase the number of emergency room beds from 16 to 27, with the potential to convert an additional 13 beds from an expanded observation unit, bringing the total potential number of available emergency room beds to 40.

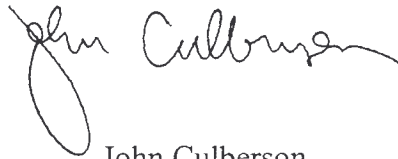
This project is of great importance to the community. Like many hospitals throughout the country, Memorial City Hospital is confronted with an inadequate infrastructure, a growing population in its primary service area, and significant levels of uncompensated care. It is for these reasons that I strongly support the activities that Memorial City

Hospital has undertaken to expand and improve the availability of emergency room services.

I request that you include \$2,000,000 in the Health Resources and Services Administration account in the Department of Health and Human Services appropriation for fiscal year 2003 in support of this project.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Culberson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

John Culberson
Member of Congress

JC:eb